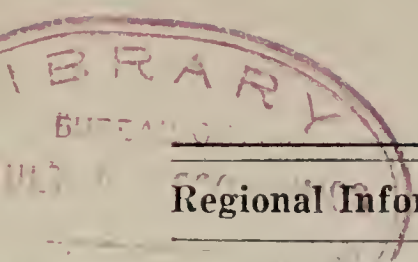


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

1938 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - - - - - NORTHEAST REGION

THE 1938 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN THE NORTHEAST

The 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program, like those of the past 2 years, is based upon the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. The program aims at preventing erosion, at preserving and improving the fertility of farm land, and at a better-balanced agriculture that has a proportion of soil-conserving crops to soil-depleting crops which will conserve the soil. It means an acreage of soil-depleting crops large enough to meet all needs of consumers at home and customers abroad. It means avoiding the soil and labor waste that go into the production of unmarketable surpluses that depress prices.

GOALS FOR THE NATION AND FOR EACH FARM

The 1938 program provides *goals* for the Nation, for States, and for individual farms. These goals are of two kinds. One kind is a goal for soil-depleting crops; that is, an acreage of such crops that can be grown without harming the soil and without violating the principles of good farming. The other kind is a goal for soil-building; that is, an acreage of soil-conserving crops and the use of soil-building practices that are needed to put the soil in good condition and keep it from washing away.

In 1938, a farmer who takes part in the conservation program will qualify for full payment if he does not exceed his soil-depleting crop goal or fall short of his soil building goal. If he fails to achieve his goals fully, deductions will be made from his payments. These deductions will be in proportion to the degree by which he goes over his soil-depleting crop goal or fails to reach his soil-building goal.

The objectives of the program for 1938 remain the same as those of 1937 although procedure has been altered. The things that farmers actually do when they take part in the program have not been altered greatly. Many of the soil-building practices approved for 1938 are similar to the practices followed in 1937. The payments which help farmers bear the cost of adopting the approved practices will total up to a similar amount, even though they are figured in a different way.

Here are two additional changes in the operation of the program in the Northeast:

1. The new program includes provisions for stabilizing commercial potato acreage.
2. On the limited number of farms in the region which grow grains or vegetables on a commercial scale, the program will include stabilization of acreage of soil-depleting crops as well as use of soil-building practices.

WHAT THE GOALS WILL BE LIKE

A goal, just as its name indicates, states what farmers hope to accomplish by following the program.

The national acreage goal for all soil-depleting crops in 1938 is between 273,000,000 and 288,000,000 acres. That is large enough to meet all needs of the people in this country and of our customers abroad but at the same time small enough to minimize surpluses in years when yields are normal or above. During the past 10 years the average acreage of soil depleting crops was 305,000,000.

The total soil-depleting goal is divided into individual soil-depleting goals for certain crops and a general soil-depleting goal for all other soil-depleting crops. The crops for which there are individual soil-depleting goals are cotton, corn, tobacco, potatoes, peanuts, and rice.

Within the limits of the national soil-depleting goals, there will be established goals for individual farms. Farm goals for corn will be established only in commercial corn-raising counties in the North Central and Midwestern States. *No farm goals for corn will be established in the Northeast.* Corn acreage in that region will be part of the general soil-depleting goal.

Each farmer who takes part in the program will have a *soil-building goal* for his farm. That goal is the acreage of soil-conserving crops that best conserves the farm's soil, plus the amount of other soil-building practices (such as liming, applying phosphate, or terracing) needed to improve grass and legumes and to prevent erosion.

STABILITY, NOT REDUCTION

The new program does not offer separate payments for diverting acreage. Payments in connection with soil-depleting crops will be made for *staying within* the goals for those crops. On farms where the soil-depleting goal is smaller than the base acreage figures used in former years, staying within a goal will necessitate diverting some acreage to soil-conserving crops. Payments, however, will be based on the number of acres in the goal or, in the case of potatoes, for each acre planted within the goal, and not on the number of acres diverted. Since the payment is for staying within the soil-depleting goal, a farmer would not earn any extra payment by diverting additional acreage and going below his goal. In the case of potatoes payments will be less if the acreage planted is smaller than the potato goal. On farms where the percentage of soil-depleting crops already is small, the total soil-depleting goal will be as large as the acreage of soil-depleting crops customarily grown.

The national program is a long-range effort to stabilize soil-depleting crops at an acreage that allows farmers to maintain soil fertility and at the same time grow an adequate supply of farm products.

ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM AND PAYING FOR IT

State and county committees will handle local administration of the program. Expenses of each county agricultural conservation association will be deducted from payments to the farmers of the county.

Funds for carrying out the 1938 program have not yet been *appropriated*. That also was the case when the 1937 program was announced. However, an annual appropriation to carry out a program under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act is authorized by Congress. The amount of funds available for the 1938 program is dependent on appropriation by Congress, and payments under the program are necessarily contingent upon the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

GOALS WON'T MEAN ACREAGE REDUCTION ON ALL FARMS

Many farms in the Northeast already have a large percentage of cropland in soil-conserving crops. For these farms the general soil-depleting goal will be as large as the acreage of general soil-depleting crops customarily grown. In other words, on farms where the cropping system already is balanced, the program would not encourage further reduction in acreage of soil-depleting crops. On such farms the whole program would relate to improvement of pastures and soil-conserving crops and the adoption of soil-building practices. However, if the acreage of soil-depleting crops is increased above the goal on such farms deductions would be made from payments otherwise earned.

FARMS FOR WHICH GOALS WILL MEAN REDUCTION

Farms for which the general soil-depleting goal may be smaller than the acreage of soil-depleting crops customarily grown would include—

Farms with substantial acreages of wheat, corn, buckwheat, or rye for grain.

Farms with substantial acreages of commercial vegetables.

Farms in areas where the present acreage of cultivated crops is causing severe erosion.

Farms which have 80 percent or more of their cropland in soil-depleting crops.

On such farms, staying within the general soil-depleting goal will mean replacing some acres of soil-depleting crops with soil-conserving crops. That will be a requirement for full participation, along with reaching the soil-building goal.

SPECIAL SOIL-DEPLETING GOALS

Individual soil-depleting crop goals will be established for only two crops grown in the Northeast. These are potatoes and cigar tobacco.

The Program for Potatoes.—The national potato goal was established after the commercial potato growers of the country voted in favor of it by a majority of more than 4 to 1. The object of the special goal for potatoes is to avoid the extremes of very high and very low acreage by stabilizing acreage at a point near the present average. The average acreage of potatoes for the past 10 years was 3,346,000 acres. The national goal for 1938 is between 3,100,000 and 3,300,000 acres.

Potato goals will be established for all commercial growers in commercial areas. Goals will not be established for any farms which grow potatoes only for use on the farm or for any farms in areas not designated as commercial areas. On farms for which goals are established, payments will be based on the number of acres grown, up to the limit of the goal. Deductions will be made for each acre over the goal. The maximum payments in connection with potatoes will be made for growing the full goal for the farm.

The Program for Tobacco.—The national goal for cigar filler and binder tobacco is 85,000 to 90,000 acres. The average acreage for the past 10 years was 98,000 acres. As in past years, goals will be established for individual farms and full payment will depend upon staying within the tobacco goal.

HOW PAYMENTS WILL BE FIGURED

County committees will establish a soil-depleting goal for each farm. They also will establish a soil-building goal. If a farmer does not exceed his general soil-depleting goal or his tobacco or potato goals and if he reaches his soil-building goal, he will earn a full payment. The following items will count in determining full payment for a farm:

Acreage in the general soil-depleting goal. (If the goal is as large as the acreage usually grown—\$1.50 for each acre in the general goal. If the goal is smaller than the acreage usually grown—\$1.50 per acre adjusted for the productivity of the farm.)

Soil-conserving acreage (70 cents per acre).

Commercial vegetables (\$2 per acre on average annual acreage on which commercial vegetables were grown in 1936 and 1937).

Acreage of commercial orchard (\$2 per acre on the farm January 1, 1938).

Noncrop pasture (40 cents per acre for fenced non-crop pasture land in excess of one-half of the cropland in the farm).

If the farm has a potato goal, each acre of potatoes planted on the farm in 1938, up to the limit of the goal (4 cents per bushel on the yield per acre which the farm's potato land normally can produce).

If the farm has a tobacco goal, each acre in the tobacco goal (eight-tenths cent per pound on the yield per acre which the farm's tobacco land normally can produce).

PARTIAL PAYMENTS

A farmer will not receive full payment unless he fully reaches his farm's goals. Deductions will be made for the amount by which he falls short of his soil-building goal or goes over his soil-depleting goal or goals.

NO CONTRACTS OR PENALTIES

A participating farmer will incur no liability if deductions are more than the payment he might have earned. No contracts will be offered. Participation is entirely voluntary.